NEWS

Winchester residents enjoy activities on Winter Pond

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

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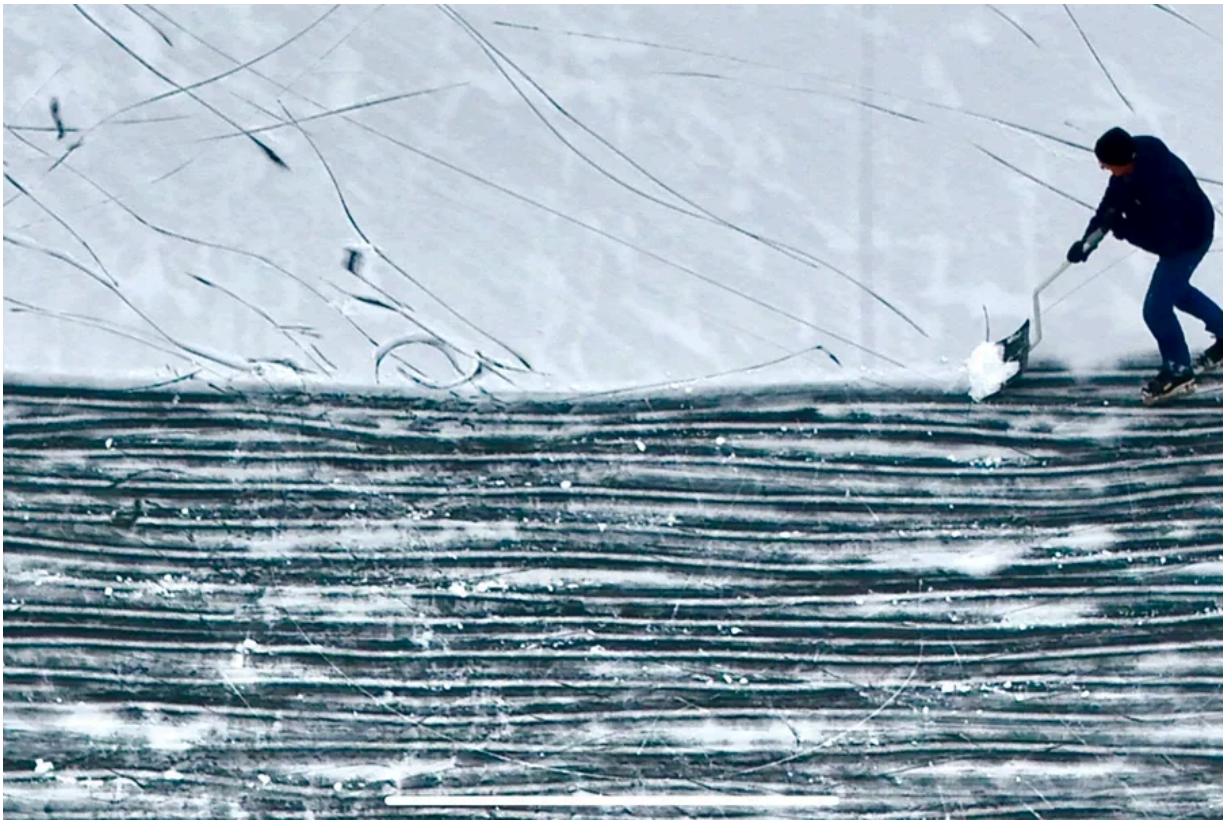

A resident clears off the snow at Winter Pond for snowy day activities. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/FRANK SITEMAN

The recent snow and cold weather sent some Winchester residen
Winter Pond for ice skating and other winter activities.

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But officials warn to be very careful on the ice. In fact, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife offers these helpful safety tips about being out on the ice while fishing or recreating.

December 23, 2024

There's no way to tell if ice is actually safe. Always consider ice to be potentially dangerous. You can't judge ice conditions by appearance or thickness alone; many other factors like water depth, size of water body, water chemistry, currents, snow cover, age of ice, and local weather conditions impact ice strength.

Ice tips to remember:

• New ice is stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly formed ice may support one person on foot, while a foot or more of old, partially thawed ice may not.

• Ice doesn't freeze uniformly. Continue to check ice conditions frequently as you venture out onto the ice.

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• Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often more dangerous. Avoid traveling onto ice-bound rivers and streams, as the currents make ice thickness unpredictable. Many lakes and ponds may contain spring holes and other areas of currents that can create deceptively dangerous thin spots.

• Before heading out onto the ice tell someone your plans, including where you are going and when you expect to return.

• Come prepared. Carry a cell phone in case of emergency. Always carry ice picks and rope with you on the ice. In case of emergency, drive the nails into the ice and pull yourself to safety while kicking (see tips for falling in below).

• Wear your life jacket. If you fall in, a life jacket will keep you at the surface and can provide insulation against the effects of cold water.

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If something happens and you fall through the ice, remember the following:

• Don’t panic: Call for help if there are people nearby.

• Don’t remove winter clothing: Air trapped in your clothes can provide warmth and help you float.

• Turn the direction you came from: Ice you previously walked on should be the safest.

• Place your hands and arms on an unbroken surface and kick yo
you have ice picks or a pair of nails, use them to pull yourself up
ice while kicking.

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• Lie flat and roll away: Once your torso is on firm ice, roll toward thicker ice to distribute your weight.

• Find shelter and get warm: Change out of wet clothing and find warm, dry coverings. If you are in a remote area, get to or start a campfire. Otherwise, get to a car or house. Seek medical advice from your physician on medical attention.

December 26, 2024

If someone else falls in:

• Remember the phrase “Preach-Reach-Throw-Go.”

Preach: Call 911 if you can. Shout to the victim to reassure them help is on the way.

Reach: If you can safely reach them from shore, extend an object like a rope, jumper cables, tree branch, or ladder to them.

Throw: Toss one end of a rope or something that will float to the

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Go: If the situation is too dangerous for you to perform a rescue, call 911 or go to find help. Untrained rescuers can become victims themselves.

If a pet falls in, do not attempt to rescue the pet, go find help. Well meaning pet owners can easily become victims themselves when trying to assist their pets.

Remember to always keep pets leashed while walking on or near ice.

For more information, log on here.

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Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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